BOSCH:

Often at Loggerheads With Law, Exile Had Always Remained Free

By DON BOHNING
Herald Latin America Editor

Dr. Orlando Bosch, baby doctor turned exile activist, long has been one of the most controversial members of Miami's Cuban community.

He also has been one of its most frequently arrested.

HIS SCUFFLES with federal authorities have ranged from charges of illegal possession of explosives and conspiring to export arms to a charge of extorting money from wealthy Cubans to finance his anti-Castro activities.

Despite his numerous encounters with virtually every federal agency involved in Cuban affairs, Bosch has never served a sentence and never been convicted.

The bespectacled 42-year-old father of five heads the militant Revolutionary Recovery Insurrectional Movement (MIRR), an organization which had emphasized direct and strong action against Cuba.

ONE OF THE more bizarre incidents in Bosch's career as an exile activist came in 1964. He was arrested by Miami authorities as he cautiously towed a home-made, radio-controlled torpedo through the streets during rush hour traffic.

In 1965, he was charged, along with five others, of trying to smuggle Castro-bound bombs out of the country, after federal agents raided a house near Orlando.

IN APRIL, 1966, Sheriff's Deputies stopped Bosch and two friends at a road block on the Tamiami Trail in Collier County. They found six live, 100-pound surplus aerial practice bombs stuffed with dynamite in the trunk of the car, snuggled up to several AR15 rifles and three other assorted weapons.

In December, 1966, Bosch and one of his aides, Marcelino Garcia, went on trial in Miami Federal Court on charges of trying to extort $21,000 from a fellow refugee to finance anti-Castro operations.

THE CHARGES were dropped after the prosecution's main witness reportedly offered to sell out to the defense.

The two were acquitted.

The pediatrician from Cuba's Las Villas Province claims his infiltration and attacks against Castro have brought him nothing but "harassment" from U.S. authorities.

BOSCH CLAIMED U.S. agents shadowed him day and night.

He once claimed a man who identified himself as a State Department employe visited him at his home and offered him $10,000 to work in cooperation with the U.S. against Castro. That was early in his exile career.

Bosch said he turned the offer down.

Bosch also claimed that "U.S. agents" once entered the MIRR offices, then on Flagler St., and withdrew "certain files" and "documents with the names of Cubans who contribute to the movement." He also charged federal authorities with bugging his office and called a press conference to produce a small listening device. He said it was found stuffed inside an electrical outlet.

His MIRR has claimed a series of actions against Cuba. Some are known to have occurred. There is considerable doubt that others did.

Bosch had dropped out of sight following his most recent courtroom appearance in December, 1967. He had received virtually no public mention until a hooded figure called "Ernesto" offered him the post as the Cuban Power Miami spokesman in a strange press conference Sept. 20 of this year.

A FEW DAYS later, at a press conference of his own in a downtown hotel, Bosch announced he would accept the nomination.

"I feel it is necessary for me to accept," Bosch said. "I don't care about the consequencies. I don't know how the authorities will react, but it doesn't worry me."

The authorities reacted Friday. As Bosch was led away by FBI agents, he raised his manacled hands in V-for-victory signs, and shouted: "Victory for Cuban liberation."

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